Taking difficulties as opportunities for mutual help

The following is a story of a mother whose daughter was born with a severe disability:

The mother cried every day after she found out that her daughter was disabled. Since then, however, she, her husband, and others in her family have walked through life bravely while helping one another. Looking back over her life, she says with humor, "My daughter is like the sun to my family." Despite anxiety about the future, she and her family faced up to her daughter's disability and have been able to overcome difficulties with support from many people.

In the Tenrikyo teachings, we are taught, "Whatever you see is causality; whatever you hear is causality." This tells us an important attitude toward life; instead of taking what is happening around us as someone else's problem, we should consider it as relating to ourselves.

Difficulties that confront us are not merely troubling situations; we can turn them into opportunities for mutual help. Difficulties can thus help guide us to the Joyous Life.

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